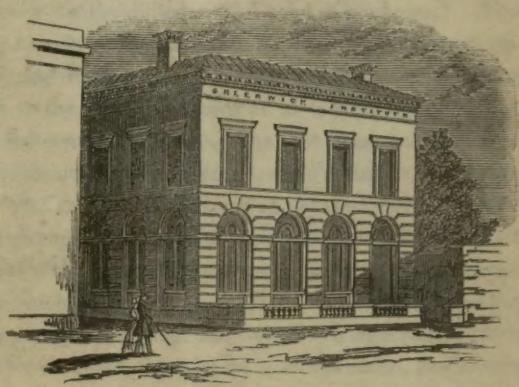


Greenwich
1842

THE
REPORT
OF THE
BUILDING COMMITTEE,
PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
GREENWICH SOCIETY
FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE,
January 25, 1842.



GREENWICH:
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REPORT.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE gladly avail themselves of the present opportunity, to lay before the Members the steps that have been taken to procure a Building suited to the wants and the capabilities of the "Greenwich Society for the diffusion of Useful Knowledge." They beg to refer to the Report of September, 1840, as clearly pointing out the various arrangements which are essential to the accomplishment of an undertaking of such a character and magnitude. The first object was to secure a suitable site; and, if it were deemed desirable, to purchase the plot that presented itself at the west end of Burney-street, containing, as it did, more than enough for the purposes of the Institution, and consequently leaving the residue which the Society must have let off; it is obvious that the arrangement which the Committee were subsequently enabled to effect, must be far more beneficial, particularly as a party was found, who, by taking the portion useless to the Institution, together with the house upon it, left the Society free to take possession of just enough to suit their Building, and that at a fair proportion of the cost of the whole. Such an opportunity was not to be lost;

so after a careful investigation of the title, the purchase was legally and satisfactorily concluded. It may be worth while to mention, that from the first, a stable on the premises, has been paying a rent equal to five per cent on the loans appropriated to the purchase. To have obtained freehold possession of a site so eligible in all respects, is a source of no trifling gratification.

The next step was, to fix on a design that should contain all the requisite arrangements in the most advantageous form, as to cost and convenience. To this, every publicity was given, so as to ensure that competition from men of ability which should afford an abundant choice. To make a selection is always a delicate and thankless duty, but the Committee having classified the various conveniences offered, and bestowed much care on an examination of their comparative eligibility, believe that this portion of their task has met with general approval.

The time now arrived when it became right to determine under what rules its future management should be guided. It was obviously necessary to secure both the satisfaction of the subscribers to the Building Fund and so full and perfect a control by the members, as to ensure, at all times, a ready adjustment of the management to the wants and wishes of a popular Institution. The discussion of this question was so fully gone into at the several meetings of the Society, called for that purpose, that the Committee need only now congratulate all parties, that a settlement was, at last, effected with

the greatest unanimity. And, while regretting that any serious difference of opinion should at any time have occurred, the Committee can but rejoice at the opportunities which such discussions afforded of discovering and removing any objectionable point, before it became necessary to put the rules into actual operation. The difference was momentary, the good results will be permanent. To the satisfaction of every sincere friend of the Institution, the personal responsibility of each contributor, though not unusual in associations of the kind, has been completely removed by converting the shares into loans, thus leaving the trustees alone answerable for all contracts which they may make on the part of the Society. It then became the duty of the Committee, to ascertain whether the three gentlemen, chosen at a former meeting of the general body to act as trustees, would undertake to stand in the same capacity under the adopted regulations: Mr. GRAY declined, but Messrs. MEADOWS WHITE, and PURVIS, at once stated that they should feel much pleasure in remaining as the representatives of the Institution, in conjunction with Mr. W. R. MORRIS, whom the Committee unanimously agree to recommend for appointment as the third trustee. Of the judgment and integrity of this gentleman, not a word need be said to a Society, in the management of whose affairs he has taken so active a part ever since he first, with some half-a-dozen others, determined upon its formation: as one, whose zeal and exertions have increased, as the growth and influence of the Society have called for their more

extended exercise, the Committee feel that they may, without hesitation, present him to the meeting for election.

Thus every arrangement being complete with reference to the ground—the plans for the Building—and the responsible representatives of the Institution, the future steps will be comparatively simple and easy. It only remains for the subscribers to realize that support, on which will depend the speedy erection of the Building. Upon the faith of this support, the Committee have taken every step hitherto, necessarily at a cost of no little time and labor. As soon as the various loans have been paid up, the contracts will be entered into, and within a few months, the Building completed.

The Committee beg to offer their warmest thanks for the encouraging aid which has enabled them to overcome the various difficulties with which such undertakings have not unfrequently to contend; they also feel it due to acknowledge the considerate forbearance of such members, as were most zealously alive to the *immediate* want of a Building. They will consider, that as in the purchase of the ground every dispatch was necessary to prevent its passing into other hands, so, since the alteration in the Rules, it was as desirable that time should be allowed for the whole body of the Subscribers to become well acquainted with their provisions. Every care has been taken to facilitate the circulation of the Rules among the Members, by appending them to the Catalogue; and the Committee are happy to see that the more fully they have been considered, the more

highly they have been appreciated. Under these circumstances, to hasten *slowly* was deemed the shortest way to hasten *surely*. For in every popular assembly to which a proposition, of such extent and in a great measure new, may be presented, where each may be partial to his own first view of the case, time is requisite to afford that reflection which will produce a general concurrence in the wisest and best course. This unanimity has lately been much strengthened by the growing prosperity of the Institution ;—by the steady increase in the number of those who have availed themselves of the use of its valuable library ;—by the eager desire recently manifested to meet in large classes for the practice of vocal music ;—and moreover by the assembling of hundreds in the Grey Coat School Room, to attend the weekly lectures. What has already been effected under disadvantage and restriction, has proved what may be done with more extended means. These favorable circumstances have produced the impression which the Committee expected, and have brought home to every one the absolute necessity of a building, capable, not only of meeting, but of carrying out more completely those many advantages, which every day's experience shews may be derived from well directed association.

It is plainly unworthy of so large and influential a body to take advantage of the kindness of private friends to supply that accommodation for the several classes, which, by a little energy, could* be furnished by the Society itself. This consideration naturally leads the Committee to refer to the Grey Coat School-room, founded for the

diffusion of useful knowledge. Hundreds of our fellow-townsmen have, in this public building, engaged with eagerness in the pursuit of that object for which the noble-minded founder bequeathed his property ; yet from the spirit which has occasionally been found to actuate some of the representatives of the founder of this School, it is probable that the members of the Institution may be shortly deprived of the very useful, yet small and restricted privilege, of assembling within that School-room, where they have for some time past, enjoyed some of those rational gratifications which useful knowledge can so well supply. Against this probable deprivation, the best remedy is for the Society to have a Building of its own ; and your Committee believe that no period ever appeared more favorable than the present, for the successful accomplishment of this desirable object, since all seem so fully to appreciate the capabilities of an Institution which will, when well appointed, add materially to the welfare and happiness of the Town.

JOHN BENNETT,

Hon. Sec. to the Building Committee.

Note.—At the General Meeting held on the 25th of January ult.—Charles Harwood, Esq., in the chair—the above Report, to which the accompanying statement of Accounts was appended, was received and adopted ; Mr. W. R. MORRIS was chosen to act as the third Trustee ; and the Building Committee were unanimously requested to take the steps necessary to bring the undertaking to a speedy completion.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE BUILDING FUND.

	Donations	Amount of Loan offered	Installments paid
Adams, Mr.	0 0 0	20 0 0	2 10 0
Allworth, Mr. J. J.	.	10 0 0	1 5 0
Angerstein, Mr.	25 0 0		
Armstrong, Mr. J.	.	10 0 0	1 5 0
Baker, Mr. E. W.	.	10 0 0	1 5 0
Barnett, Mr. H.	.	20 0 0	20 0 0
Bass, Mr.	0 0 0	6 0 0	0 15 0
Bennett, Mr. J.	20 0 0		
Bennett, Mr. G.	10 0 0		
Bennett, Mr. W.	10 0 0		
Borrett, Mr.	.	20 0 0	12 10 0
Breakspear, Mr.	.	10 0 0	1 5 0
Carpenter, Mr. James	10 0 0		
Carpenter, Mr. Joseph	.	10 0 0	5 0 0
Carpenter, Mr. George	.	8 0 0	1 0 0
Cobbett, Mr.	10 0 0		
Cole, Mr. J.	.	40 0 0	10 0 0
Cook, Mr. James	.	2 0 0	0 5 0
Cristall, Mr. W.	10 0 0		

	Donations	Amount of Loan off red	Installments paid
Cross, Mr. J.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Crouch, Mr.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Couchman, Mr.	1 1 0		
Cook, Mr. Thos.	1 0 0		
Deal, Mr. E.		10 0 0	2 10 0
Deal, Mr. J.		10 0 0	2 10 0
Disney, Mr.		4 0 0	0 10 0
Downes, Mr.		6 0 0	0 15 0
Dundas, Admiral, M. P.	25 0 0		
Dunkin, Mr. E.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Eling, Mr. W.		6 0 0	0 15 0
English, Mr.		4 0 0	0 10 0
Evans, Mr. W.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Everson, Mr.		4 0 0	4 0 0
Evison, Mrs.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Foggo, Mr. A.		50 0 0	6 5 0
Foggo, Madame		6 0 0	0 15 0
Fountain, Mr.		4 0 0	0 10 0
Franks, Mr. J.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Freeman, Mr.		6 0 0	0 15 0
Giles, Mr. I. R.		20 0 0	2 10 0
Gillson, Mr.		6 0 0	0 15 0
Grainger, Mr., R. D.	10 0 0		
Gray, Mr. J. E., F.R.S.	5 0 0		
Gillespie, Mr.	1 1 0		
Hale, Mr. W.		20 0 0	2 10 0
Halley, Mr. John		10 0 0	1 5 0
Harris, Miss		10 0 0	1 5 0
Harwood, Mr. Charles		40 0 0	5 0 0

	Donations	Amount of Loan offered	Instalments paid
Heisch, Mr.	10 0 0		
Helyer, Mr.		10 0 0	5 0 0
Higgs, Mr.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Hodges, Mr. R.		6 0 0	0 15 0
Hume, Mr. W.	5 0 0		
Huntley, Mr. W. R.		10 0 0	10 0 0
Imms, Mr.		4 0 0	0 10 0
Ingham, Mr.		2 0 0	0 5 0
James, Mr. E. W.	2 0 0		
Jarman, Mr. J. B.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Jarman, Mr. Thos.		6 0 0	0 15 0
Kemp, Mr. G.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Knightley, Mr. J.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Knightley, Mr. W. P.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Lafargue, Mr.		6 0 0	0 15 0
Lambert, Mr. E.		10 0 0	10 0 0
Le Gallois, Mr.		30 0 0	3 15 0
Lovegrove, Mr. J.		10 0 0	10 0 0
Mascoe, Mr.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Mead, Mr.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Millard, Mr. John		20 0 0	2 10 0
Mills, Mr.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Mills, Mr. W.		10 0 0	5 0 0
Moore, Mr. H.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Moore, Mr. C. J.		20 0 0	10 0 0
Moore, Mr. T. H.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Morris, Mr. Joshua		10 0 0	1 5 0
Morris, Mr. W. R.	10 0 0		
Morris, Miss	2 0 0		

	Donations	Amount of Loan offered	Instalments paid
Moze, Mr. J.	0 0 0	10 0 0	1 5 0
Murdoch, Dr.	1 1 0		
Noble, Mr. S.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Parker, Mr. A.	1 0 0		
Pettett, Mr. G.		20 0 0	10 0 0
Potts, Dr. L. H.		20 0 0	2 10 0
Pritchard, Mr.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Purvis, Mr. Prior, M.B.	10 0 0		
Powle, Mr. J.	2 0 0		
Randall, Mr. E.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Reeve, Mr. G.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Renshaw, Mr. J. G.		8 0 0	1 0 0
Richardson, Mr. J.	5 0 0		
Richardson, Mr. H. S.	2 0 0		
Riddle, Mr. John		20 0 0	2 10 0
Ritchie, Mr. A.		10 0 0	1 5 0
Riches, Mr. Thos.		10 0 0	10 0 0
Rose, Mr. John		4 0 0	0 10 0
Rowley, Mr.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Ruegg, Mr. L.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Russell, Mr. S.		6 0 0	0 15 0
Shove, Mr. Ambrose	5 0 0		
Shove, Mr. W.		20 0 0	10 0 0
Shepherd, Mr. James		4 0 0	0 10 0
Simon, Mr. L. M.	10 0 0		
Simmons, Mr. H.		2 0 0	0 5 0
Smith, Mr. B., Lee		10 0 0	1 5 0
Smith, Mr. Benjamin		10 0 0	10 0 0
Smith, Mr. T. W.		2 0 0	0 5 0

	Donations	Amount of Loan offered	Instalments paid
Smith, Mr. Walter G.	.	10 0 0	1 5 0
Smith, Mr. George	. 10 0 0		
Smith, Mr. W.	.	20 0 0	20 0 0
Smith, Mr. J. A.	.	4 0 0	0 10 0
Stovey, Miss	.	2 0 0	0 5 0
Stow, Mr. W.	.	10 0 0	1 5 0
Sturton, Mr. W.	.	2 0 0	0 5 0
Sturton, Mr. W. B.	.	2 0 0	0 5 0
Suter, Mr. W., Sen.	.	20 0 0	2 10 0
Suter, Mr. W., Jun.	.	10 0 0	1 5 0
Suttill, Mr.	.	2 0 0	0 5 0
Talmadge, Mr. W.	. 10 0 0		
Target, Mr.	.	2 0 0	0 5 0
Townsend, Mr. J.	.	10 0 0	10 0 0
Trafford, Mr. E.	.	6 0 0	0 15 0
Vowler, Mr. W.	.	40 0 0	5 0 0
Warter, Mr.	. 2 0 0		
Wheatley, Mr. J.	.	20 0 0	2 10 0
Wheatley, Mr. T.	.	40 0 0	20 0 0
White, Mr. J. Meadows	10 0 0		
Withersby, Mr. J.	.	2 0 0	0 5 0
Withersby, Mr. G.	.	2 0 0	0 5 0
Wickham, Mr. H.	.	10 0 0	1 5 0
Young, Mr. Adam	.	20 0 0	20 0 0
		£.	s. d.
Amount of Donations		235	3 0
Loans offered		1058	0 0
Instalments paid		307	0 0

The Treasurer in Account with the Building Committee, to Christmas, 1841.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
To Donations	235	3	0	By purchase of Ground	463	1	6
To Instalments paid on £1058. being the amount of Loans offered	307	0	0	By cash for Room for exhib. designs	3	0	0
To Rent of Stable, to Christmas 1841	18	15	0	By do. for Advertisements	5	6	10
				By do. for Printing	14	17	9
				By do. for Stationery & Postage	3	6	0
				By Sundries, Messenger, &c.	6	10	3½
				By Balance	64	15	7½
	<hr/> £560 18 0 <hr/>				<hr/> £560 18 0 <hr/>		
					GEORGE SMITH, TREASURER.		

Note.—When it was determined to raise the sum required, by Loans of £2 each, the payments were to be made by two 5s., and three 10s. instalments. Only the first of these calls has been made. The sums paid beyond that amount in the annexed List, were forwarded by a few gentlemen who felt desirous to make good the purchase of the Ground before the Committee deemed it advisable to make any further calls, the Trustees at that time not having been appointed under the Rules of the Institution.